

## MINUTES

### **Seattle Commission for People with disAbilities Monthly Meeting**

Thursday, November 17, 2011, 4:30 - 6:00 p.m.

Seattle City Hall Boards and Commissions Room

Commissioners Present: Mark Adreon, Mike Barta, Joshua Caple, Rebecca C. Cory, Charlene Curtiss, Vickie Foster, Laura Gramer, Mary Beth Lum, Erica Sekins, Gary Stobbe, Deborah Witmer

Commissioners Absent: Patricia Copeland, Hope Drummond, Jonathan Porter, Sara Woody

SOOCR Staff Present: Felicia Yearwood, Michael Chin

Guests: Tim Shockley, Rebecca Deehr, Monty Reed

Call to Order: Mary Beth Lum called the meeting to order at 4:30

Approval of Minutes: November 2011 approved as read

SOOCR Report: SOOCR continues to settle cases resulting from the rental housing tests.

**MOTION:** To draft a letter to City Council or press release thanking the council for funding fair housing testing in 2011, encouraging funding for similar efforts in the future, and encouraging individuals to file complaints when they experience discrimination based on disability. **ACTION: PASSED**

Guest Speaker:

Rebecca Deehr, Mayor's Office

The City is convening community conversations about road safety. Three basic questions are:

1. What are the highest priority safety problems?
2. What are the most important actions to make roads safer?
3. What can individuals and nongovernment agencies do?

Commissioners offered several ideas, including:

1. Make crosswalks clearer for people with low vision
2. Ensure walk time is long enough for people to cross
3. Need efforts to make wheelchairs more visible
4. Need more curb cuts
5. Sidewalks need to be even
6. Tree grates pose an obstruction
7. Uniformity of infrastructure helps people with low vision
8. Confer with people who live in the area at issue
9. Audible and vibrating crosswalk signal
10. Make street signs more visible and uniform
11. Educate public on traffic signs, e.g., chevrons
12. Consider middle of the street crosswalks
13. Install speed bumps wisely

Co-Chairs Report: Patt Copeland attended the five commission meeting. The Human Rights Commission is seeking co-sponsors for forums in 2012. Two that might be of particular interest are focusing on hate crimes and police accountability.

Committee Reports:

- Outreach: The next community meeting is December 15<sup>th</sup> at Wellspring Family Services, 1900 Rainier Ave South. Josh Caple is stepping down as chair of the committee.

- Issues: Mark Adreon distributed four related motions regarding SDOT's proposals to limit time allowed for parking with placards. The first and second motions to express support and opposition were tabled. The motion to direct SDOT to refrain from implying Commission support was referred to the co-chairs. The motion to seek clarification regarding the language "traffic infraction" and "parking infraction" and other questions was referred to the issues committee.
- Retreat Planning: The retreat is scheduled for December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at SOCR. Lunch will be provided.
- Bylaws: Laura Gramer, Deborah Witmer, and Mary Beth Lum volunteered to serve on an ad hoc bylaws review committee and will make recommendations in 2012.
- Education: Deborah Witmer reported that earthquake simulations will take place in June. The commission is invited to participate in creating an "insert" a scenario that is inserted into the exercise. Feedback on the earthquake plan is welcome. All interested commissioners should see Deborah.
- Nominating: Saron McKee submitted her resignation today. Laura Gramer, Deborah Witmer, and Mike Barta volunteered to serve on the ad hoc nominating committee.

## Announcements

Human Rights Day celebration December 8<sup>th</sup> 6:00 p.m. City Hall  
 Next meeting December 15<sup>th</sup> Wellspring 1900 Rainier Ave South